



John Reich Journal

Volume 12 / Issue 2

July 1999

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues \$15.00

Life Membership \$375.00

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The **John Reich Journal** is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editor. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die varieties, die states of published die varieties, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Finest confirmed example of the 1830 V14 Capped Bust
Half Dime. Photo courtesy of an East Coast collector.

John Reich Journal

Official publication of the

John Reich Collectors Society

Volume 12 / Issue 2

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Whole No. 37

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Editors' Comments

Welcome to another issue of **The John Reich Journal**. This is the pre-ANA issue and we are looking forward to seeing many of you in Chicago next month. We will have our annual meeting Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM in room 4 of the Rosemont Convention Center. Please plan on attending and bringing along a friend that may be interested in joining our society. There will be an educational presentation at the meeting. We will also have a club table on the bourse floor, #216, where we all can meet to discuss some of our favorite topics, bust coinage. There will also be a display there of some interesting pieces from a members collection. We will also be having our annual open house meeting on Thursday evening at the host hotel. The room number will be available at the club table, as well as by word of mouth, on the convention floor. Feel free to join us, and bring a friend as well as some coins, for show and tell. These informal meetings are sometimes the highlights of the show for many members. Just ask the plumber who rescued the half dimes from the elbow joint of the sink, or the member who stepped into freezing cold water in the bathtub the morning after the fire alarm. As you can see, many times there are more things to do, and see, after hours than on the bourse floor.

I would like to thank all the members who voted for the best article from the last volume of the journal. Still, I would like to see greater participation in future voting. The members who research and write the articles for our enjoyment expend a great amount of time and effort. I would like to see more participation in selecting the winners of the **Jules Reiver Literary Award** each year. Our past recipients will, I am sure, tell you it was a great honor receiving this prestigious award. This years award will be presented at the convention and the winner(s) will be announced in the next issue. All the articles written for the journal are eligible to receive the award. Will you be the next lucky winner? Only if you take the time to submit something for publication!

Many of our regular authors have told me that they were intimidated the first time they thought of submitting an article for publication. One of them has gone on to be one of our most prolific writers. He has even won awards for his submissions to both this, and other numismatic journals. Please do not feel overwhelmed by the prospect of submitting something to us. You too may become a regular contributor to the journal. In that light, I have asked a few members to write a short paragraph or two on their passion for collecting the bust coins and their membership in JRCS. I would like to encourage everyone to submit their own versions for future publication. I hope you enjoy our offerings.

My submission:

The evolution of a bust half collector.

My interest in United States coins started as a youngster in trying to collect everything. My budget soon dictated that I become more specialized. This began my type set collection of coins. Almost halfway through completion I was introduced to the mysterious world of die variety collecting. The prospect of collecting century old silver coins for under \$50 each appealed to my young mind (and budget). The thrill of the hunt to uncover the numerous marriages was intriguing.

Soon into my collecting endeavor I learned of a club dedicated to the bust half dollars, **The Bust Half Nut Club**. Soon after obtaining my 100th marriage, the minimum required for membership, I applied. I was denied due to a no dealer rule that stood in the club. A few years later Jules Reiver informed me of a new club open to all collectors of bust material- The JRCS. I immediately joined and began enjoying other collectors experiences as related in the journal. The exposure to the research in the journal soon had me thinking of how I could contribute. I began a die state study of 1812 O107 which was soon published. This led to an even greater thirst for knowledge, and an expansion of my library. The feedback from other members on my efforts was very rewarding. This study eventually helped me in my quest to become a BHNC member.

The interaction of fellow collectors in both BHNC and JRCS has given me more enjoyment than I could ever have expected. Lifelong friendships have evolved with fellow members. The sharing of knowledge and eachothers collections is always a highlight of any gathering. The ANA offers a chance to meet with collectors from all over the country. Sometimes it is the only chance to see old friends since last years meeting. Other times casual meetings are held at a members house, or other smaller coinshows. Each opportunity is eagerly awaited and attended. All in all, the friendships that have resulted from collecting the coins have almost made the coins themselves a secondary consideration. My only hope is that each of you can have the same amount of enjoyment from this hobby as I have. See you in Chicago!

To The Editor from member 578:

A few random thoughts on collecting Bust Dimes and JRCS.

We all must start somewhere - variety collecting does not appear in the genetic code. It is an acquired taste not unlike the appreciation for a fine wine.

When I decided my “accumulating” days were over and that a concerted effort to form a collection was a necessity, I decided on Dimes - major reason - too damn many Bust 1/2 collectors! At coin shows, these guys looked like a stampede for the Blue Light special at K-Mart.

I needed an outlet for my research energies outside my profession. Dime collecting became a passion - the anticipation of discovery, the frustration at the paucity of original material - all added to the drama of the hunt.

In addition, I had the pleasure to be mentored by my friends in JRCS. I’m certain that my mistakes provided ample entertainment for your editor and treasurer...

JRCS, composed of dedicated numismatists, created valuable research, a framework within which I could operate. More experienced and certainly more knowledgeable friends were always available to lend assistance.

The ever-expanding body of knowledge that JRCS cultivates, never ceases to impress me. I’m fortunate to have made this choice - besides, if you’ve seen one commem, you’ve seen ‘em all.

165 writes...

Not yet a teenager, I remember, as if it were today, viewing the early silver dollar photos in the ‘Redbook’ while on a “Lincoln Cent budget.” The year was 1963. Twenty years later I acquired my first early silver dollar, an 1800 in choice extremely fine, beautifully toned and very attractive. And as they say, I had caught the bug. Three years later, in November, 1986 I attended the ANS Coinage of the America’s Conference on America’s Silver Coinage. And while there I received a copy of Volume I, Issue I of the John Reich Journal. I was now hooked. Membership in JRCS led to new friendships, opened the doors to research and numismatic literature and eventually led to writing and sharing my discoveries with others in **The John Reich Journal**.

The Passion for Collecting Bust Coins, by member 326

It has been stated that those who assemble organized collections of coins or other collectibles are attempting to make order out of chaos. Others have referred to the collecting “bug”, or “fever”, in an attempt to explain the obsessive compulsive behavior we all know as coin collecting. I find such attempts at rationalizing this

behavior to be futile; if you have the fever, you know what it is, and don't need it explained. If you don't have it, no attempt at explanation will ever fully clarify it for you.

Despite the futility in attempting to elucidate such behavior, certain common traits or peculiarities of serious collectors cannot be overlooked. Among those who are no longer content to assemble a simple date and mint mark collection of a particular series, but choose, instead, to identify and acquire examples by die marriage, particularly for the early Federal silver coins, there appears to be a disproportionate number of engineering, technical, and number-crunching mathematician types. I've never understood why this is so, but merely make the observation. Others have extrapolated this observed phenomenon even further by suggesting that doctors collect early copper, and lawyers collect gold. I can neither confirm nor deny those observations. One might also make note of the fact that serious coin collecting seems curiously dominated by older white males. Are there clues to understanding this behavior to be found in these observations? Perhaps. Will the relentless pursuit of elusive die marriages help to create world peace or find a cure for cancer? Perhaps not.

Whatever it is that motivates us to obsessively collect these beautiful little examples of the engravers' art may never be fully understood. I suspect that the brain anomaly that compels one to seek completeness in a collection of bust half dollars, or half dimes, might ultimately have lead the same individual to attempt to complete a collection of matchbook covers or commemorative plates had he not discovered the intriguing combination of art, history, heraldry, economics, politics, technology and folklore that comprise the science of numismatics.

Is it a sickness? A mental illness? Genetic disposition? Left brain/ right brain? I know not. But just when friends and family believe that I might be showing signs of being cured, someone places a double row box of bust half dimes in front of me, and I suffer a relapse. Although there is no known cure, certain symptoms can be alleviated by attendance at coin shows, perusing a bourse floor for those elusive R5's, or engrossing one's self in the pages of the latest issue of **The John Reich Journal**. Meanwhile, I wouldn't waste too much time worrying about the "fever". I know of only one person who ever died from this affliction, and that could easily have been avoided had he observed one simple rule. While studying one's coins, the glass of scotch goes on the left, and the jar of coin cleaner (should you choose to use it) goes on the right.

Member 157 writes:

Initially, I think what drew me to collecting Capped Bust Halves were the minute creation details and the problems that occurred during the actual minting process. Even after 34 years I find through research, and the research of others, new information and a realization that there is still much more to learn. With that said, even more importantly I truly cherish the friendship shared with other researchers and collectors. Like everyone else I love cherrypicking R4's and R5's for my personal collection (and I don't find nearly enough of them!) but not as much as seeing or spending some time with "the guys". Whether old member or new, conversing, exchanging information, staying in touch by email, or simply having lunch or coffee. That's what is important to me, because aside from the always interesting Capped Bust Coinage, I've discovered that JRCS people are some of the best people around.

The society would, again, like to express our sincere thanks to Steve Herrman for his continued financial support from the sales of his **Auction & Mail Bid Prices Realized for R4 to R8 Bust Half Dollars 1794-1836**. He generously donates a portion of each sale to the society, which has amounted to hundreds of dollars in donations over the last few years. You can order your copy from Steve by contacting him at 2817 S. Jay St., Denver, CO 80227-3801, or by Internet at Herrman102@aol.com.

ATTENTION CAPPED BUST HALF DOLLAR COLLECTORS

It is time to send in your censuses of R4 through R8 marriages for publication in the next issue of the journal. This is a very important feature of membership in this society. We publish censuses of the series in every other journal. Your information will be kept confidential, with only your membership number being used to identify your collection. Please participate in this important event.

Send your current Census to:

JRCS CENSUS
PO BOX 135
HARRISON, OH 45030-0135

Please include all your duplicates and die states. Your front line piece will be listed with your collection, all others will be included in the master counts for the variety. Send the list in the format; date, variety, numerical condition.

—Bradley S. Karoleff—

Plaudits, Pans and Perplexing Points

JRCS

I would like to solicit input from collectors about two coins that I own.

The first coin is an 1836 Capped Bust Quarter that I've owned for quite some time. I attributed this coin as a B-4 using the original Browning book (1977 reprint). I was certain that I had the reverse correct as the coin clearly exhibits the "additional" die crack running from the left edge through "U", extending across the eagle's wing to the shield. However, I was less certain about the obverse. Browning's description is somewhat subjective, and the plates in the back of the book were of little help. The reason for my confusion was that the obverse does not display any of the die cracks described by Browning. I now have the revised (by Breen) edition of Browning's book, and with the help of the larger pictures, I conclude that this coin is indeed a B-4. However, it is an earlier die state (with obverse dies perfect) than either Browning or Breen had encountered. I would like to know if other collectors, after viewing the photos, agree with my conclusions.



The second coin is an 1806 Draped Bust Half Dollar that appears to me to be an Overton 116. However, the reverse of this coin does not display any die cracks, and there appears to be a defect at the "E" of UNITED. It does not have an upper serif. Again, after viewing the photos, I would appreciate any comments from other collectors about this coin.



Thank you,
Bob Janos
JRCS #900

JRCS

Before much more time passes I need to let you know just how happy I am with my recently bound volumes of **The John Reich Journal**. Your selection of The Ohio Bookstore to bind the Journal has provided us with a very quality job, for which I am very appreciative.

I chose to have my journals bound in three volumes with an index included in each, other options were also available. I can not think of a better way to present, preserve and utilize a really first rate numismatic publication. I would encourage other JRCS members who have complete sets of the JR Journal to consider having their sets bound.

I am also pleased to learn that materials matching those used have been put aside to ensure that future bound editions of the journal will match past bindings.

Thank you for providing such quality bindings, and for providing the membership with such a fun and informative publication.

Best Regards,

John J. Kovach, Jr.

JRCS

Enclosed are photos of the Breen 2D 1810 Half Eagle, small date, tall 5. This is the coin previously described in my article in Volume 11, Issue 3 of **The John Reich Journal**. Notice the dentils that were cut to make room for the 5 in the denomination. Thanks to Bill Noyes for the photo.

Eric Hildebrant



Capped Bust Half Dollar Patterns and Related Issues

Russell J. Logan

Recent enthusiastic collecting of Bust halves by die marriage and die state, plus an excellent new book by Keith Davignon on contemporaneous Bust half counterfeits, have established Bust half dollar collecting as one of the most prominent fields in United States numismatics. This paper will examine the Capped Bust half dollar collecting patterns, private restrikes, and such other Mint related Bust halves that are referenced in the writings of Adams-Woodin, Judd, Taxay and Pollock, but are not within the scope of either Overton's or Davignon's book. Much has been learned about these issues during the past twenty-five years, and it seems appropriate to discuss each piece in detail.

Probably the greatest authority on these Mint related pieces was Stewart P. Witham. When his collection was auctioned by Rarcoa at *AUCTION '81*, Stew owned 24 different half dollar patterns. His notes and observations on this fascinating series were compiled in his November 1974 article in the *Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine* entitled Rusty dies, mint sports {sic} abound in half dollar patterns. Some of his research found its way into Taxay and the later editions of Judd, but his other efforts were often dismissed by auctioneers who chose denial as the most expedient option for dealing with these patterns and private restrikes.

If there can be any criticism of Keith's book, it would be that he did not distinguish between the half dollars that were struck with discarded Mint dies and those struck from bogus dies. The collecting fraternity has always placed a premium on pieces struck using genuine Mint dies, verses pieces using bogus dies, regardless of *when* the piece was fabricated. A case in point is the 1804 silver dollar. So it is with the Bust half dollars. Pieces that can trace their origin to a Mint working die are highly sought after, and pieces that are struck from Mint dies and are contemporaneous with the regular business strikes are much the more desirable pieces. Davignon clearly sets the record straight on such pieces as Judd-47, and A-W 26 (see Figure 1), both extremely well executed bogus pieces that have been encapsulated by third party grading services. He also discusses Pollock-51 (see Figure 2), the absolutely hideous bogus piece which two major auction houses recently proclaimed a genuine pattern, and the overstruck halves struck on large cents which Judd called Mint Errors in his Appendix B.

There is no evidence of any Lettered Edged Capped Bust half dollar master dies, hubs, or working dies surviving today, but there are some extremely intriguing and highly collectable patterns and restrikes made from genuine Mint dies. The restrikes are typically late, taken from rusted or damaged dies, on non-silver planchets, and frequently uniface. They were not

made to deceive the collector or our Government; they were whimsicality struck by the individuals who had access to the dies and had a desire to create something extraordinary.

One must remember that the paucity of unscrupulous Mint products produced during the Federal period was not due to either the bondage that each officer was required to post or to the integrity of the workers, but due rather to the laws of supply and demand. There were simply no collectors who would pay big bucks for an 1802 half dime restruck by the Mint in 1834! The system was abused by management in a totally different fashion! The engraving tools and equipment of the Mint were used to fulfill private contracts of medals and seals. Stewart Witham estimates that John Reich tripled his annual income during his tenure at the Mint with such activities.

There are four privately issued restrikes that are reviewed in this paper along with one genuine pattern. In addition to these five pieces, there are two 1811 uniface as described by Judd in his Appendix A, and Pollock in his restrike chapter. These have eluded me for the past forty-five years, but I'm not yet ready to disregard their existence. When the obverse and reverse dies are in the normal business strike orientation, they are in the "flip" position and noted as ↑↓. And when they are in the "non-flip" position, they are noted as ↑↑.

1811 Uniface Obverse White metal

JUDD - Appendix A - Die Trials

POLLOCK - #6195 Private Restrikes - one listing only (rev?/obv)

RJL - Not seen - probably a private restrike using a Mint die; same fabric as Pollock #6145?

1811 Uniface Reverse White metal

JUDD - Appendix A - Die Trials

POLLOCK - #6195 Private Restrikes - one listing only (rev/obv?)

RJL - Not seen - probably a private restrike using a Mint die; same fabric as Pollock #6145?

The above two pieces are probably products from genuine Mint dies, but never having seen one, I can't be certain. Judd list no pedigree; Pollock apparently mimics Judd but does not list reverse uniface. Could the reverse uniface be the same as Pollock #6165?

1813 Restrike Copper - Plain Edge - ↑↑

JUDD - #42 Pattern

TAXAY - #31A Privately Made Restrikes. Unique Ex. Farouk, Parmelee

POLLOCK - #6200 - Private Restrikes

RJL - Private restrike using Mint dies.

1813 Restrike Brass - Plain Edge - ↑↑

JUDD - #43 Pattern

TAXAY - #31B Privately Made Restrikes. Ex. Brand, Fewsmith, Parmelee

POLLOCK - #6205 Private Restrikes (Photo)

RJL - Private restrike using Mint dies.

Although Judd lists these two coins in the front pages of his book, he clearly stated that they are restrikes from rusty dies. Indeed they are; no effort was made to trim the planchet to the proper diameter, or attempt to inscribe edge lettering around the periphery. Dies are ↑↑. Witham traced 23 auction appearances of these two restrikes commencing with the Lilliendahl Sale in 1863; it is not clear how many of each are in existence today, but probably no more than six exist of both copper and brass. It was not until Witham purchased his example at the April 1972 Rarcoa Sale, that the coin was correctly attributed as 1813 Obverse 5 and 1810 Reverse D. See Figure 3.

1814 O-107 PLATINUM - Lettered Edge - ↑↓

A/W - #29, #30 Pattern

JUDD - #44 Pattern

TAXAY - #16 U.S. Mint Essay

POLLOCK - #48 Pattern

JRCS - Die state study 1814 O-107 John Reich Journal 9/2, page 39.

RJL - Pattern

Three examples are said to exist, but the whereabouts of the 3rd is unknown as of this writing. The first specimen is at the Smithsonian, and Bowers and Merena offered the second one at auction in the 1991 ANA auction as lot 2619. This coin weighs 344.5 grams and has a specific gravity of 20.9 and is identified by 33 inverted "P's" impressed on the obverse and the word "Platina" engraved on the reverse. See Figure 4. The Smithsonian coin weighs 349.3 grams and may be identified by a rim gouge at stars 6-7. Judd claimed that Stephen K. Nagy, Haseltine's agent, and son-in-law, owned the third example, whereas Taxay claimed the third specimen was owned by Nick Parker.

These patterns were struck from the same dies that were used to strike the 1814 Overton 107 die marriage. Closer inspection reveals that the platinum pieces are intermediate die states of the O-107 die marriage as they have the clash marks, but lack the retained cud at the front of Miss Liberty's nose found on the late O-107 marriages. See Figure 5. This proves that the platinum pieces were struck sometime during the middle of the silver O-107 production. But because neither the obverse nor the reverse die is linked to another coin, more evidence was required to prove, with certainty, that the business strikes were made in 1814. An analysis of the edge lettering on the platinum pieces reveals that the same edge die was used to strike the later die states of 1814 O-107 and the early strikes of 1814 O-105. This proves the platinum pieces were struck in 1814 because the O-105 is die linked to other 1814 die marriages. Platinum became abundant in the western world after Charles Wood returned from Peru in 1741. There it was called "Platina", and in the Peruvian language

signifies "little silver". Only the nations of Columbia and Spain had issued platinum coins prior to 1814, so the United States Mint was on the cutting edge of technology when they produced the first platinum Capped Bust half dollar in 1814! Dies are ↑↓.

1820 Restrike Tin - Uniface Reverse - Plain Edge

JUDD - Appendix A (1807-1836 Type) - Die Trials

TAXAY - #30 Privately Made Restrikes. White Metal. Ex New Netherlands 9/9/53

POLLOCK - #6165 (1807-1836 Type) Private Restrikes (PHOTO)

RJL - Private restrike using Mint die. - A heavily lapped 1820 Rev. A die.

The specific die from which this uniface was taken was unknown until five years ago when the present owner lent it to me for attribution. Without question it was struck from Reverse A from 1820. The die had been heavily lapped and it was struck on an oversized planchet. Plain edge. The piece photographed in Figure 6 weighs 14.03 grams and has a specific gravity of 7.34. There must be others?

1822 Restrike Copper - Uniface Obverse - Plain Edge

A/W - #34 Pattern

JUDD - Appendix A - Die Trials (Photo)

TAXAY - #32 Privately Made Restrikes. 3 Known. See write-up on pg. 295

POLLOCK - #6215 Private Restrikes (Photo)

RJL - Restrike using a Mint die that was never used at the Mint!

Four specimens of this restrike are known today; because the die had failed so catastrophically each piece has a totally different die state, and in many instances the planchet was double or triple struck.

Provenance:

1. McCoy - Farouk - Judd - Witham (15.83 gm; 9.1 sg) (See Figure 7-2)
2. Dietrich - Parmalee - Brevourt - Bache - Rarcoa 3/72
3. Stobridge - Bache - Sidney Smith
4. Morgan (Woodward 4/1882) - Garrett:361 (16.21 gm; 9.0 sg) (See Figure 7-1)

In the aforementioned Numismatic Scrapbook article, Witham declares his discovery of a small chip in the lower edge of the drapery, left of the date. His research showed that this chip appeared on Bust halves dated from 1818 through 1829. "...the die is unlisted in the Overton early half-dollar book which means that there is no knowledge of this die having been used to strike a regular issue silver piece. However, the bust hub die is a mint product based upon the identification of the "bust base niche," which appears on all bust punches through the period 1818 to 1829 and is considered by specialists to be the signature of engraver Kneass, much as the scallop obverse on the 13th star of earlier pieces is thought to be the signature of John Reich, his predecessor".

In addition to the seven pieces described above, there are five die marriages described in Keith Davignon's *Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollar* book which were also made with United States Mint tooling. Bradley Karoleff and Keith Davignon were among the featured speakers at the thirteenth Coinage of the Americas Conference sponsored by the American Numismatic Society. It was held in New York City on November 7, 1998, and featured Circulating Counterfeits of the Americas. In his presentation, Karoleff postulated that bogus die marriages 1832 D.2/B, D.3/B, D.3/C, D.10/J, and D.13/M were struck from working dies that were made from the current obverse and reverse hubs that were the property of the United States Government. The legend, stars, date, and dentils were of the forger's hand, as well as the edge lettering. The pieces observed are all $\uparrow\downarrow$. These pieces are, of course, still contemporaneous Bust half counterfeits, but would make a worthy addition to any Bust half collection featuring Mint restrikes and patterns. See Figure 8.

The Bust half dollar restrikes and patterns are seldom offered for sale and often have spasmodic levels of trading. This is probably because most Bust half dollars listed in Adams-Woodin, Judd, Taxay and Pollock are incorrectly catalogued. This situation creates a lack of collector confidence and leads to the spasmodic levels of trading. For example, Judd-44 traded hands at \$75,000 in 1974 and less than half that two decades later. Hopefully, this article will have clarified the differences between the private restrikes and the bogus set-up strikes so that collectors will be better informed when purchasing these items. In closing, I would like to thank both Keith Davignon and Brad Karoleff for sharing their knowledge of the contemporaneous counterfeits, and the late Stew Witham for sharing his pattern half dollar notes with me.



Figure 1 - A well executed counterfeit that has fooled many an experienced collector.
Known as Judd-47.



Figure 2 - A hideous counterfeiters die trial on a Brazilian 80 Reis copper. Two major auction firms have described it as a genuine pattern during the past fifteen years.



Figure 3 - A private restrike in brass using Overton's 1813 Obverse 5 and 1810 Reverse D. Some specimens are struck in copper, but all specimens observed by this author have a plain edge.



Figure 4 - A Mint pattern struck in platinum in 1814. One of three known. Note the intermediate die state: reverse clash marks and no die break at nose. Judd-44.



Figure 5 - This business strike of 1814 O-107 is a later die state than the platinum pieces because of the die break at the nose, but was struck using the same edge dies.



Figure 6 - A private restrike in tin of Overton's 1820 Reverse A. Coin is uniface revealing a heavily lapped and pitted reverse die.



Figure 7A - The Judd-Witham example of the 1822 uniface. Although this obverse is not known as a business strike, it has all of the features of a genuine mint die.



Figure 7B - The Morgan - Garrett example of the 1822 uniface. A later strike, that has a minimum of three strikes from the die.



Figure 8 - An 1832 counterfeit half dollar made from Mint hubs. Only the lettering, stars, date and dentils are the work of the counterfeiter.

The Bearded Goddess

(0111-A And B Bust Half Dollars)

Jeffrey Oertel

Unless you are a collector of Capped Bust half dollars, when you hear the term “bearded goddess,” an image of a lady at the freak show of a circus might come to mind. The rest of us know that the term refers to the first Capped Bust half minted to have a very visible die break that is evident on the obverse of the coin. The pronounced die crack starts at the headband, comes down past the chin into the field (forming a large lump above the bust) and ends near the 1 in 1807.

In many ways the bearded goddess epitomizes why so many people collect Bust halves, and why there is such a fascination to collecting these varieties. What more could you ask for; a catchy name, a pronounced and readily identifiable mark, and a rare variety. There is a mystique about this coin, just as there is with the three-legged buffalo nickel, or the “Booby-head” large cent.

The surname to this coin combines two contradictory connotations, and when you think of it, the term “bearded goddess” is really a misnomer. But this is precisely why it is such a splendid term. The 1807 design of John Reich is arguably the prettiest, and most delicate, of the Capped Bust half series. To put a beard on the stature of a princess is a crime, to find a die break on this goddess is a collector’s dream.

The bearded goddess has an interesting recorded history.

The goddess was not cataloged, nor noted to have a beard in Beistle’s 1929 volume, *Half Dollar Varieties and Sub-Varieties*. Does this mean that this half dollar was not known or not collected with a specific attention to the obvious defect? Unlikely.

When Overton published his first edition of *Early Half Dollar Die Varieties*, in 1967, the variety was referred to as the “bearded chin” variety, which was then Overton variety #24 for the year 1807. The variety was noted to have a die break from bust to chin, and was considered “very rare.”

Today, we are aware of two sub-varieties with the break from chest to chin: the “A model” and the “B model,” as Bust half specialist, Sheridan Downey, refers to them. The original bearded chin was, what has come to be known as, the “A model”. (Note; the A and B are capitalized in this article for easier reading.)

The “B model” showed up in the 2nd Edition of Overton’s book. In this 1970 printing, the “A model” was noted as a R.6, with the “B model” a R.5. The O-111B had a crack that had now been described as a “heavy break, forming a solid lump just above chest and extending in lighter cracks up along nose and across eye to headband and down across the bust and just left of 1” The O-111A sub-variety became the one with the lighter curving crack from upper chest to chin.

In 1990, when Don Parsley issued the 3rd edition of Overton’s book, he downgraded the O-111A to a R.4 and retained the R.5 for the O-111B. Since then, the BHNC (Bust Half Nut Club) released revised rarity ratings for Bust halves, and re-established the R.5 for the O111A.

The equivalent R.5 values for the two models appear to be correct, judging from the number of coins that have appeared at auction, and the relative prices paid for each. If anything, the “A model” has been auctioned less frequently than the “B model”, and some of the highest prices paid for a bearded goddess variety (A or B) are for the “A model”.

For example, since 1990, 17 “A models” are recorded in the 9/98 edition of Stephen Herman’s, *Prices Realized for R4 to R8 Bust Half Dollars*, while 31 are recorded for the “B model”. Similarly, Sheridan Downey has sold more “B models” than “A models” in his auction sales over the past 10 years.

Although experts like Mr. Downey could tell the difference between an A and B model (at a distance of three bourse tables) other dealers, and firms, do not have the same track record. Many of the previously listed, and sold, 1807 O-111B Bearded Goddess are actually the “A model”: close, but not accurate. How well I know. I have purchased not one, but two, “bearded goddess,” described and labeled as O-111B, which were actually the “A model”. One was actually encapsulated and mis-attributed by a national grading service (which has since been corrected).

Speaking of Sheridan, the best graphic example of the “B model” is illustrated on the cover of his auction #10, on January 8, 1994. The crack is very visible as it extends down the bust and to the left side of the 1, and up through LIBERTY, breaking the headband. The final hammer price was a mere \$5,670., with the coin grading XF45. The same auction had two model A’s, both were VF and sold in the mid \$1300’s.



Photo A-Note the O111B model with the crack starting at the headband and extending all the way down to the lower rim. (Cover photo of coin from Sheridan Downey Mail Bid Sale #10.)



Photo B-Note the die break is obvious between chin and bust, but stops at the eye. This is one of my "A models".

What are these goddesses worth at auction, or elsewhere? The price paid for the XF45 "B model" in Downey's sale #10 was a bit high, but it was a nice example. Based on recent auction prices, the following is a guide to what you might expect to pay, but beware, prices for Bust halves (all coins lately) have been relatively high and somewhat erratic in the past year.

| Model | VG | F | VF20 | VF30 | XF45 | AU50 |
|------------|--------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| 1807 O111A | \$300+ | \$450-850 | \$700-1300 | \$1200-1800 | \$2000-4000 | \$6000 |
| 1807 O111B | \$350+ | \$400-800 | \$600-1300 | \$1000-1700 | \$2000-4000 | \$5000 |

You will note that mint state (MS60 or above) is not listed since the coins are nearly unique and the prices are speculative. Virtually none are known to exist. The Floyd Farley coin is the best specimen known, which is in uncirculated condition. There may be one or two more in existence. If you want to buy a mint state goddess with a beard, don't get out your pocketbook. Call your banker and sign up for one of those low interest home equity loans available these days.

Finally, I would like to suggest we be fair and refer to any and all the O-111's with a die break as a *Bearded Goddess*. I think it is not fair to refer to the "B model" as the real bearded goddess. When Overton first noted the variety as having a beard, he made no distinction as to the extent of the crack beyond the chin-to bust, and he originally described

the variety as what was to become the "A model". Whether A or B models, all coins do fall into the category of having "beards" after all. The "B model" has a cracked ribbon while the "A model" does not. Let's be fair and accurate, the two models are both bearded goddesses, and the "B model" has a broken ribbon while the A's are perfectly fine.

Any way you look at it, if you own any 1807 O-111 you have a rare coin.

Now, if you are really looking for a rare 1807 O-111, the prime (rated R6) is the one to own. This, of course, is the earlier die state of the bearded goddess without any crack which seldom appears at auction. If you own one of these, you likely have one of the first hundred Capped Bust half dollars ever minted in the United States, and a coin worth thousands of dollars! But, without the beard, she's just not as much of an attraction.



Diameters and Edge Reed Counts of Early Eagles

Anthony J. Taraszka

In the process of acquiring more than forty early eagles I realized that there was a small but regular decrease in coin diameter as one progressed from 1795 to 1804. A review of the data for eagles in the Smithsonian Institution, National Numismatic Collection, provided a similar conclusion (1). In discussing these findings with Dave Kenny he mentioned that he was also puzzled by the data on the Smithsonian eagles(2). Subsequently, I discussed my puzzling observations with Russ Logan who challenged me to look at the third die and provided me with his edge mirror (3).

I photographed and counted edge reeds from coins in my collection as well as photos furnished by Ed Deane of the Harry W. Bass Jr. Research Foundation. The results indicate that the early eagles can be divided into four distinct groups by the number of edge reeds and is summarized in the accompanying table.

142 Edge Reeds - eagles dated 1795 to 1798/7 (Figure 1)

131 Edge Reeds - eagles dated 1799 to 1801, and the 1803 Breen-1D (Figure 2, 3)

130 Edge Reeds - 1803 Breen-1C (Figure 4)

126 Edge Reeds - remaining 1803 dated eagles Breen-1A, 1B, 1E, 1F and 1804-1A (Fig. 5)

The unique 130 edge reed count was verified on two of the four reported specimens. Incidentally, the 1804 plain 4 eagle, which was struck in 1834 for diplomatic proof sets, has 200 very fine edge reeds.

Further study would be required to ascertain if my observations are consistent throughout the series. Given the current trend towards encapsulation, the only source for additional data would be coins in institutional collections.

I want to express my appreciation to Ed Deane and the Harry W. Bass Jr. Research Foundation for furnishing photos of eagles from the Bass collection for this study.

Citations:

1. Cory Gilliland, **Sylloge of the United States Holdings in the National Numismatic Collection of the Smithsonian Institution**, Volume 1, Gold Coins 1785-1834, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992.
2. Dave Kenny, personal communication.
3. Russell J. Logan, **The Third Die: A Different Look**, Coinage of the Americas Conference, American Numismatic Society, 1987.

| Coin | | Breen No. | Diameter in millimeters | | Edge Reeds |
|--------|-----|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | | AJT | SI-NNC | |
| 1795 | 1-A | 1-A | 33.0 | 33.0 (2) | 142 |
| | 2-A | 2-A | 33.0 | 32.9 (2) | 142 |
| | 2-B | 4-C | 33.0 | ———— | 142 |
| | 3-C | 3-B | 32.9 | ———— | 142 |
| | 2-C | 4-B | 33.0 | 32.9 | 142 |
| 1796 | 1-A | 1-A | 33.0, 33.1 | 33.0 (2) | 142 |
| 1797 | 1-A | 1-A | 33.0 (2) | 33.0 (2) | 142 |
| | 2-B | 2-B | 33.0, 33.1 | 33.0 | 142 |
| 1798/7 | 1-A | 1-A | 33.0, 33.1 | 33.0 (2) | 142 |
| | 2-A | 2-A | 33.0 | 32.9, 33.0 | 142 |
| 1797 | 2-C | 2-D | 33.1 | ———— | 142 |
| | 2-D | 2-C | 33.2 | 32.8, 33.0 | 142 |
| 1799 | 1-A | Bass-XA | 32.8 | ———— | 131 |
| | 2-A | 2-A | 32.7, 32.8 | ———— | 131 |
| | 3-A | 1-A | 32.7 | ———— | 131 |
| | 4-A | 3-A | 32.8 | 32.7, 32.8 (2) | 131 |
| | 4-B | 3-C | 32.8 | 32.8 | 131 |
| | 4-C | 3-B | 32.7 | ———— | 131 |
| | 5-C | 4-E | 32.5, 32.6 | ———— | 131 |
| | 5-D | 4-D | 32.6, 32.6 | ———— | 131 |
| | 6-E | 5-F | 32.6 | 32.6 | 131 |
| | 6-F | 5-G | 32.5, 32.6 | 32.7 | 131 |

| Coin | Breen No. | | Diameter in millimeters | | Edge Reeds |
|------|-----------|-----|-------------------------|----------------|------------|
| | | | AJT | SI-NNC | |
| 1800 | 1-A | 1-A | 32.6, 32.6 | 32.5, 32.6 | 131 |
| 1801 | 1-A | 1-A | 32.5, 32.6 | — | 131 |
| | 2-B | 2-B | 32.5 | 32.5 (3), 32.6 | 131 |
| 1803 | 1-A | 1-D | 32.6, 32.6 | — | 131 |
| | 1-B | 1-C | 32.4, 32.6 | — | 130 |
| | 1-C | 1-A | 32.3 | 32.3, 32.4 | 126 |
| | 1-D | 1-B | 32.3-.4 (3) | — | 126 |
| | 1-E | 1-E | 32.4 | 32.3, 32.5 | 126 |
| 1804 | 1-A | 1-A | 32.3, 32.4 | 32.4, 32.4 | 126 |
| 1803 | 1-F | 1-F | 32.3 | — | 126 |
| 1804 | 2-B | 2-B | 32.2 | — | 126 |



Figure 1-142 Edge Reeds, 1797 Br-2B



Figure 2-131 Edge Reeds, 1799 Bass-XA



Figure 3-131 Edge Reeds, 1803 Br-1D



Figure 4-130 Edge Reeds, 1803 Br-1C



Figure 5-126 Edge Reeds, 1804 Br-1A



Corrected Die Emission Sequence of 1803 Dated Eagles

Anthony J. Taraszka

A previous communication in this journal described a revised die emission sequence for 1803 and 1804 dated eagles which was largely based upon direct observation of die breaks, clashmarks and die lapping (1). There were two die marriages, the 1803 Breen-1C and 1D, which showed no evidence of die breaks, clashmarks or die lapping. The assignment of their position in the sequence was based on H. W. Bass Jr.'s belief that the 1803 Breen-1C preceded the 1D, although he could not remember the basis for his assignment (2).

Subsequent to the publication of the article, I obtained a specimen of the 1803 Breen-1C for comparison (3) and examined the early eagles in the Harry W. Bass Jr. Research Foundation collection. Comparison of the 1803 Breen-1C and 1D specimens in both collections revealed the following:

1. 1803 Breen-1C, the Bass coin has much less wear than my specimen.
2. 1803 Breen-1D, my coin has less wear than the Bass specimen.
3. None of the four specimens showed any evidence of die breaks, clashmarks or die lapping.
4. The die line in the second curl is identical in both marriages (Fig. 1 and 2). This die line is from a damaged hub and is present in all regular issue eagles dated 1795 to 1804.
5. There is a long thin die line from the vertical curl and drapery diagonally upward and halfway to junction of neck and bust (Fig. 3). This die line is unique to the 1803 dated die and persists through the usage of this obverse without measurable diminution (Fig. 3, 4, 5).
6. Die lapping evidenced by shortening of the inner point of star 11 is only seen in die marriages struck after the 1803 Breen-1D and 1C (Figures 6 to 11). The first die lapping occurs after Breen-1A. Subsequent lapping after Breen-1B and Breen-1E reduces the point to a mere trace in the Breen-1F.
7. The only measurable difference between the 1803 Breen-1D and 1C is the number of edge reeds (4). The 1803 Breen-1D has 131 edge reeds, as do all eagles dated 1799 to 1801. The 1803 Breen-1C has 130 reeds. The remaining 1803 die marriages and the 1804 Breen-1A have 126 edge reeds.

There is a small, but regular, decrease in diameters of the early eagles as a function of time which correlates with a decreased number of edge reeds, and probably indicates that four different “collars” were used in the production of eagles between 1795 and 1804 (4).

I believe the data suggests that the 1803 Breen-1D preceded the Breen-1C die marriage and the correct die emission sequence is:

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1) 1803 Br-1D | 2) 1803 Br-1C | 3) 1803 Br-1A | 4) 1803 Br-1B |
| 5) 1803 Br-1E | 6) 1804 Br-1A | 7) 1803 Br-1F | |

Many thanks to 1) Russ Logan for encouraging me to investigate the third die (5) and providing his edge mirror and 2) Ed Deane and the Harry W. Bass Jr. Research Foundation for providing photos.

Citations:

1. Anthony J. Taraszka, 1803-1804 Dated Eagles, A Revised Die Emission Sequence, John Reich Journal, Volume 11, Issue 3, p.16, July 1998.
2. Harry W. Bass Jr., personal communication, April 1997.
3. Bowers and Merena, Rarities Sale-Portland, August 1998, Lot 349.
4. Anthony J. Taraszka, Diameters and Edge Reed Counts of Early Eagles, John Reich Journal, Volume 12, Issue 2 pp.22-25, July 1999.
5. Russell J. Logan, The Third Die: A Different Look, Coinage of the Americas Conference, American Numismatic Society. 1987.

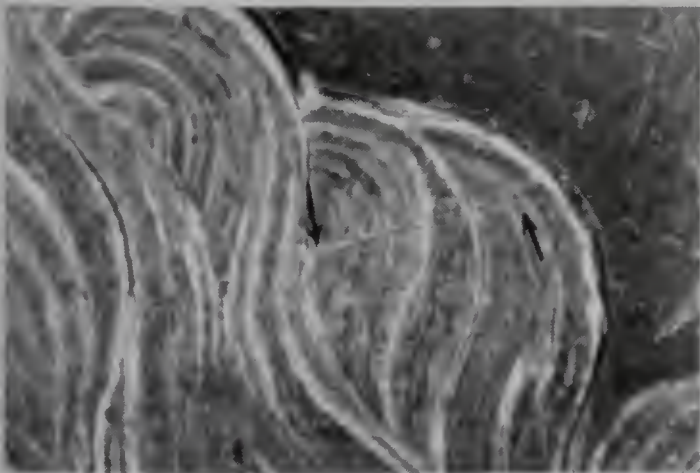


Figure 1
Common Die Line 1803 Breen-1D

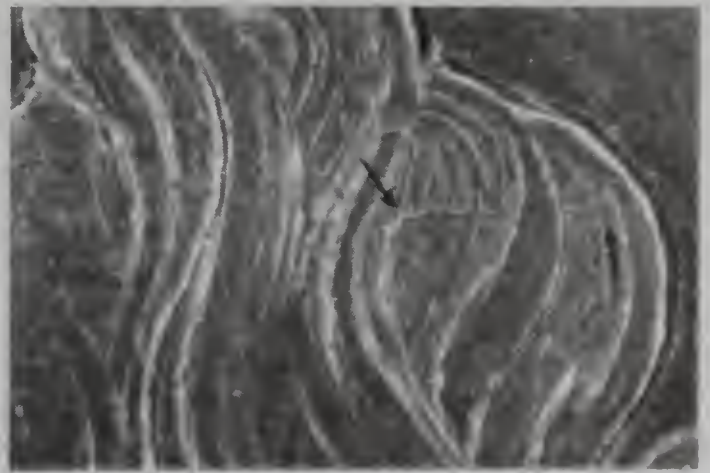


Figure 2
Common Die Line 1803 Breen-1C



Figure 3
1803 Die Line, Breen-1D

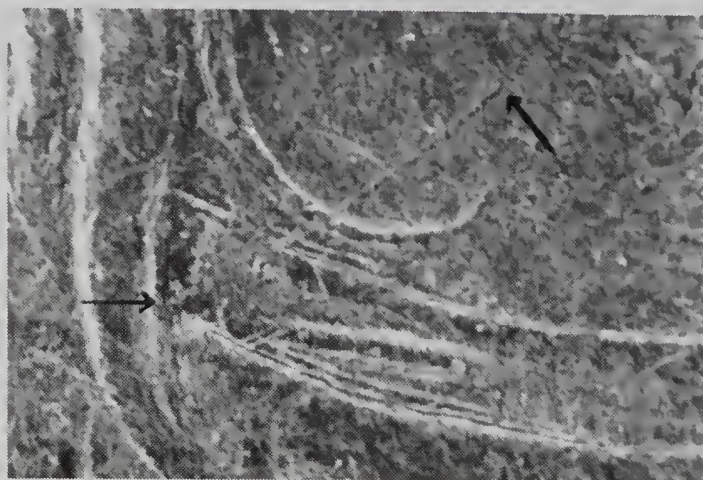


Figure 4
1803 Die Line, Breen-1C

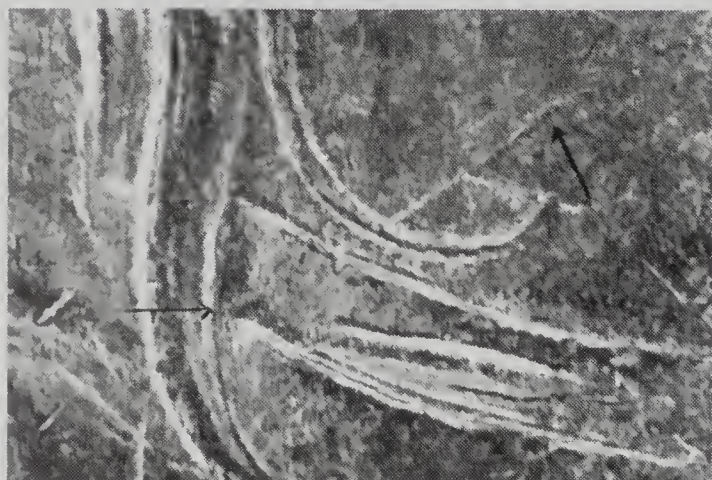


Figure 5
1803 Die Line, Breen-1F



Figure 6
Star 11, 1803 Breen-1D



Figure 7
Star 11, 1803 Breen-1C

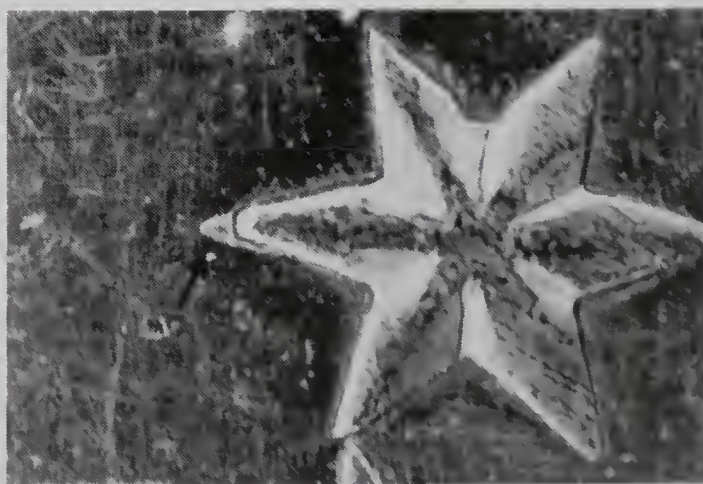


Figure 8
Star 11, 1803 Breen-1A



Figure 9
Star 11, 1803 Breen-1B



Figure 10
Star 11, 1803 Breen-1E

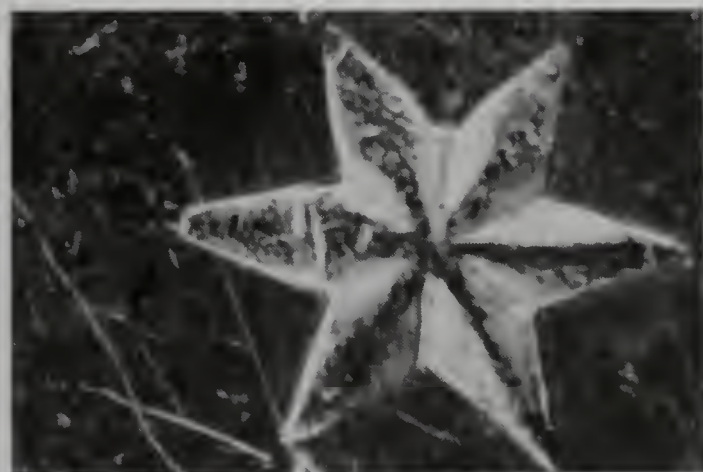


Figure 11
Star 11, 1803 Breen-1F



1799 B-12 Silver Dollar - “Rim Bump” or “Rim Break”?

W. David Perkins, NLG

Sometimes you learn something new in an unusual way.

The June 3, 1997 Spink America sale of Important Coins and Banknotes Including Colonial and United States Coinage and Medals, formerly the stock of Burdette G. Johnson of St. Louis, Missouri might be best remembered for two of its more famous lots. The first would be a beautiful red & brown 1796 with pole half-cent (pictured on the cover). The second, lot 186, is the unique discovery specimen of the 1795 B-21 Flowing Hair silver dollar (for more information on this coin see John Reich Journal, Volume 1 / Issue 2, January, 1998, page 12). The latter is the primary reason I ordered the sale catalog. I also had an interest in this sale as dealer B. G. Johnson acquired the Col. E. H. R. Green collection of early silver dollars (along with Eric P. Newman) in the 1940s. Col. Green's silver dollars have been a long term research project of mine, and I was hoping that some of the early silver dollars in this sale might be from the Col. Green Estate.

Lots numbered 189, 190 and 191 caught my eye for another reason. Being offered in these successive lots were what appeared to be three different die states of the 1799 B-12 silver dollar (B-12, B-12a and B-12b) all in a “matched” almost uncirculated grade. And from the plates all three appeared to be very nice, attractive specimens. Possibly these three silver dollars had been kept together for 40-50 years just for these reasons! All three lots were plated on one page, fairly close together due to the lot descriptions being only one line each. [See photo from the Spink sale catalog, page 42, lots 189-191.]

I was interested in lot 189, the early (perfect) die state of 1799 B-12 (I already had an example of a later die state of 1799 B-12). I had a dealer view this lot for me at Spink America in New York. After viewing the lot, he called me and stated that the dollar had a “rim bump at star 2 to 3, otherwise it was a nice coin.” I passed on the lot for this reason (rim bump).

Later, in viewing the plates (sometime after the sale) **I noticed that all three specimens had what appeared to be a rim bump at 8:00-9:00 on the obverse.** It was curious to say the least - how could three different specimens of the same B-12 die marriage all have a rim bump in approximately the same place?

I mentioned this sometime later to Jim Matthews, an early dollar specialist and JRCS member. He immediately answered “that isn't a rim bump, it's a cud. I've seen that often when cataloging 1799 B-12 silver dollars for auction (at Superior).” I went to the bank the

next day, and sure enough, despite not noting this before, my 1799 B-12b had a cud at 8:00-9:00 on the obverse. [To be fair, the rim break, or cud, is somewhat easier to see from a photo than it is on the actual coin. And some early die states (plate photos) of 1799 B-12 do not seem to show this.]

I hadn't been aware of this, nor had I ever seen this cud mentioned in writing despite over 15 years of being a collector, student and researcher of the early United States silver dollars. I checked the Bolender and Bowers' books (the Bowers' plate coin shows this rim break prominently) and neither source had any reference to this die break or cud on the rim.

Over the past two years since learning of this, I have paid closer attention to 1799 B-12 silver dollars cataloged for sale at public auction, both in current sale catalogs and in reviewing key silver dollar sales of the last 50+ years. I have yet to see this correctly called a die break or cud. However, with some frequency a rim bump is noted at 8-9:00 on the obverse. [The majority of the time no mention is made of any problem with the rim.] A couple of other interesting lot descriptions for the 1799 B-12 die marriage are as follows, with the sale names and dates omitted (as the catalogers and auction firms were attempting to point out a problem in this area). The first is from a 1970's sale of a large specialist collection of silver dollars 1794-1803:

...B-12b....Very Fine 25, iridescent gray tone, and clean for the grade. Smoothness of the rim at the second and third stars is a result of wear upon the slightly high irregular edge (as made) and is not to be confused with "a slight rim bruise" by new collectors....

And another, more recent:

...The obverse rim with evidence of filing at 8:30, otherwise this specimen is really quite pleasing....

As you can see, this rim break has been mistaken for rim damage by catalogers, dealers and specialists over the years. Thus, the alert buyer might be able to secure a bargain some day if the 1799 B-12 they are looking at has been discounted due to an "obverse rim bump at 8:00."

Was this the case for lots 189-191 in the June, 1997 Spink America sale? The three lots (one line descriptions, quoted from the sale catalog) with price estimates were as follows:

- * 189 1799 (Bolender-12, rarity 2), toned, almost uncirculated....\$2,000-\$3,000.
- * 190 1799 (Bolender-12a, rarity 2), almost uncirculated....\$1,500-\$2,500.
- * 191 1799 (Bolender-12b, rarity 2), extremely fine to almost uncirculated....\$800-\$1,200.

And the answer? Lot 189 sold for \$7,700; lot 190 realized \$4,950 and lot 191 brought \$3,850! These were very strong prices for almost uncirculated 1799 silver dollars with, or

without, "rim bumps," and all three greatly exceeded the estimates provided by Spink America. [Perhaps the estimates were on the low side due to the appearance of the "rim bumps?"]

Next time I won't refrain from bidding on a specimen of 1799 B-12 just because of a "rim bump" at 8:00-9:00 on the obverse! I missed out on a nice specimen, but I learned something in the process.



A late die state of 1799 B-12. Rim break or cud shows from 8:00 to 9:00 on the obverse, opposite stars 2 and 3, continuing almost to star 4.

Also note extensive obverse die breaks, mostly on the lower half of this specimen.



Reverse of 1799 B-12. This die was lapped, resulting in the wreath on this specimen having no berries.



- 189 1799 (Bolender-12 rarity 2), toned, almost uncirculated

\$2,000-3,000



- 190 1799 (Bolender-12a, rarity 2), almost uncirculated

\$1,500-2,500



- 191 1799 (Bolender-12b, rarity 2), extremely fine to almost uncirculated

\$800.-200.

Page 42 from June 3, 1997 Spink America sale catalog. It appears that the three 1799 B-12 silver dollars (lots 189-191) all have a "rim bump" at 8:00-9:00 on the obverse. Also note that these three lots all appear to be attractive specimens and of a uniform, almost uncirculated grade.

The prices realized confirm seem to confirm this!



M. H. Bolender - “Wanted”

W. David Perkins, NLG

Most numismatists and collectors of early federal coinage, especially the early silver dollars 1794-1803, are familiar with Milferd H. Bolender. In 1950 Bolender published the first edition of his classic reference *THE UNITED STATES EARLY SILVER DOLLARS FROM 1794 TO 1803*.

In this book Bolender built upon the 1881 Haseltine *Type Table Catalog* which had been the only reference for die varieties of the early silver dollars 1794-1803 for over 50 years. Bolender's book was a big improvement over the *Type Table*. Bolender made corrections, enhanced descriptions, and added new varieties and die states. He retained the Haseltine numbering system for consistency, but now called them Bolender numbers (H-1 became B-1, etc.). Most importantly he added plates of all obverse and reverse dies known to him using specimens (mostly) from his own collection. Lastly, he added rarity ratings for the die varieties.

Not as well known is that Bolender sold his private collection of early dollars in his *183rd Auction Sale* on Saturday, February 23, 1952. Offered in this sale were 183 varieties of early dollars before 1804! Bolender stated in his introduction that “Interested bidders can see the plates in the book of the exact coins here listed, and together with this catalogue and a price list after the sale, this will be a complete and accurate guide to the early dollars....”

For over 10 years I have been researching Bolender and his personal reference collection of early silver dollars. This research includes acquiring Bolender auction sale catalogs (197 in total per *United States Numismatic Literature*, Volume II by John W. Adams.). In studying these catalogs you can see Bolender's interest, knowledge and love of the early dollars develop over time. It appears that Bolender acquired many of the specimens in his reference collection from his own auction sales and the collections he purchased as a dealer.

And curiously, I have discovered at least two “want lists” published in the back of his auction sale catalogs.

The first want list I have come across was on page 42 of Bolender's *EIGHTY-SIXTH AUCTION SALE of RARE COINS, MEDALS AND PAPER MONEY*, October 28, 1933. It read:

WANTED

U.S. Silver Dollars dated 1795 of the following varieties:

- Haseltine No. 3 (16 berries on reverse, 8 on either side).
- Haseltine No. 10 (18 berries on reverse, 9 on either side)
- Haseltine No. 12 (lower curl touches one point of first star, but terminates in a sharp point to right. 13 berries on the reverse).

[Note Bolender's 1950 book had not been published yet so he was still using Haseltine numbers.]

The second want list discovered in a Bolender sale catalog was found inside the back cover of Bolender's February 15, 1946 *165th AUCTION SALE*. It reads:

WANTED

I wish to buy the following U.S. Silver Dollars, and will pay the prices indicated for them.

- 1796 Haseltine 3. Small wide date. Small letters in legend. Variety with lowest star on the left not quite touching hair; the stars are small, and a number of them on the right are imperfect. I will pay \$50 for a fine impression, and \$75 for a very fine one.
- 1798 H.5. Knobbed 9 in date. Rx. [Reverse] star just touches the point of upper part of eagle's beak. I will pay 3 times the 1946 catalogue [?] price, or \$30 for a fine specimen and \$55 for a very fine one.
- 1798 H.16. Wide date, upper left star closer to LIBERTY than upper right star. Rx. leaf points to space between I & R. in AMERICA; star not near eagle's beak. I will pay \$30 for a fine specimen, \$50 for a very fine one.
- 1798 H.18. Very wide date. 13 perfect arrows. Fine \$25. Very fine \$35.
- 1800 H.3. Medium wide date. Star near Y in LIBERTY. Rx. point of star enters eagle's mouth, not touching lower part of beak. The leaf touches center of lower stand of I, in AMERICA. I will pay 3 times new 1946 catalogue price, or \$37.50 for a fine example, and \$55 for a very fine one.
- 1800 H.6. Will pay \$50 for a specimen of this variety.
- 1800 H.11. The 8 in date too low. 00 in date wide. \$40 offered.
- 1800 H-13. The 8 is more in position. Rx. A & M touch, leaf points to veter [?] of I. Will pay double catalogue price.
- 1802 over '01. H.1. Close date, 1 barely escapes touching curl. T in LIBERTY is perfect, with full stand. Rx. 12 arrows. End of one arrow touches eagle's tail. Double catalogue price offered.
- 1803 H.3. Small thin 3 in date, close date. Rx. point of star touches lower part of eagle's beak. Short stem in claw. Will pay \$35 for a fine specimen, and \$50 for a very fine one.

IF YOU ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT YOUR COINS SUIT MY NEEDS, YOU MAY SEND THEM, and I will attributed them, and select those I need.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to tell if these want lists were for specimens Bolender needed for his personal collection, or for his customers. But they are interesting nonetheless.

In regards to the October 28, 1933 want list, all three varieties (B-3, B-10 and B-12) were represented in the 1952 sale of his reference collection. All three varieties were considered scarce to extremely rare by Bolender in 1952. Based on the pedigrees listed in the sale catalog, Bolender's specimens of these die marriages could have been acquired either before or after 1933.

A case for the second want list being specimens Bolender needed for his collection is much stronger. In comparing the February 15, 1946 want list to the early dollar varieties represented in the 1952 Bolender 183rd Auction Sale, we discover that the following die marriages were missing from his collection at the time it was sold: 1796 B-3; 1798 B-18; 1800 B-6; 1800 H-13; 1802/1 B-1; and 1803 H-3. Thus it may be the case that Bolender was only able to locate three of the 10 die marriages from his 1946 want list.

[This assumes Bolender did not locate these varieties and sell them prior to the 1952 sale of his collection, which, of course, is possible. Some of these varieties are very rare (1798 H-18 and 1803 H-3), some are "questionable" as to if they exist (1796 H-3 and 1800 H-6). And one should have been relatively easy to acquire (1802/1 H-1). Lastly, both Bolender and Haseltine were unaware that the 1800 H-13 (B-13) was really the early or "perfect" diestate of H-18 (B-18).]

Bolender stated in his 1952 sale catalog introduction that it took him over 40 years to put together his personal reference collection of silver dollars 1794-1803. Bolender sold some of the varieties that were missing from the collection as it stood at the time of sale in 1952. I have been able to verify that at least one specimen, Bolender's 1795 B-7 was sold prior to the sale. But it seems that even Bolender needed to publish a "want list", or two, in order to complete his collection!

EIGHTY-SIXTH AUCTION SALE

OF

RARE COINS, MEDALS
AND PAPER MONEY



TO BE SOLD

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 1933



By the Cataloguer

M. H. BOLENDER

ORANGEVILLE, ILLINOIS

*Bolender's Eighty-Sixth Auction Sale, October 28,
1933.*

STUDY THE CATALOG

Take plenty of time to study the pages of this catalog. Read through the whole thing. You will enjoy it, and will find many things that are not generally offered. Send in a generous number of liberal bids. We are prepared to show appreciation of your interest.

SELL YOUR DUPLICATES

Those duplicates in your collection are doing you no good. Send them in to be sold in my next sale now in preparation. Then invest the proceeds in something you want. That is the way several prominent collectors are improving their collections with joy.

Quick returns and satisfactory results are realized as I hold sales regularly each month. Write for terms. Member of American Numismatic Association.

WANTED

U.S. Silver Dollars dated 1795 of the following varieties:
Haseltine No. 3 (16 berries on reverse, 8 on either side).
Haseltine No. 10 (18 berries on reverse, 9 on either side).
Haseltine No. 12 (lower curl touches one point of first star, but terminates in a sharp point to right. 13 berries on reverse).

PRICED CATALOG OF 86th SALE, \$1.00

There will be a printed list of all prices realized at this sale Oct. 28th, ready soon after the sale, price \$1.00, cash in advance. This will be a very valuable table of information, especially for young collectors who have been hiding less than coins are worth. Order your copy now, and get posted on prevailing prices of coins.

State condition and price.

NEXT SALE WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 28

My 87th auction sale of rare coins and paper money will be held Tuesday, November 28, 1933. Now is a mighty fine time to sell that collection or those duplicates. The catalog is already in preparation. Write today. We do not think you will be sorry.

M. H. BOLENDER
Orangeville, Illinois

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want list ("WANTED") in the middle of the page.*



Obverse of 1795 B-10 silver dollar, the Bolender plate coin. The reference book only illustrated the reverse of this coin



Reverse of 1795 B-10 silver dollar, the Bolender Plate Coin. Did Bolender acquire this extremely rare variety from the Gutttag Brothers as a result of his 1933 want list? Specimen in author's collection.

Photo courtesy of K. P. Austin, who acquired this dollar from M. H. Bolender's February 23, 1952 183rd Auction Sale.



Is this the specimen of 1798 B-5 that Bolender acquired as a result of his offer to pay "3 times the 1946 catalogue price" in his 1946 want list? Bolender sold this specimen in his February 23, 1952 183rd Auction Sale of his personal reference collection of silver dollars 1794-1803.

Another 1828 Remarriage

Van Harvey

1828 is not known to be an exciting year in the history of the United States Mint, or United States coins in general. For Bust Half collectors, the 13 obverse and 19 reverse dies combine to create 23 varieties as attributed by Overton. All of the 1828's are collectable with only the O105 and O123 being R5's. The most noticeable differences in the 1828 dated halves are the size of the 8's and the design of the 2's. Once you begin to study the 1828 half dollars by Overton Variety, the O123 stands out as the most noticeable of the die defects present in that year. These are the so called Rail Road Tracks which are present on the reverse of most of the O123's. The origin of these marks is still a mystery.

While doing some research on the O123, which shares a common obverse with the O122, I was able to determine that there are three distinct die states of the O123. The first two of these die states are unlisted by Overton. The O123 Prime, which has neither the obverse die break at stars 5 and 6, nor the reverse Rail Road Tracks. The O123a, which now shows the obverse die break at stars 5 and 6, but still does not have the reverse Rail Road Tracks. The third die state, the O123b, has the obverse die break, but now also has the reverse tracks. This third die state is the one listed in Overton.

During a get-together with several other members of the Bust Half Nut Club while viewing O122's and O123's, as well as photos of the three die states of the O123, we determined that a remarriage did exist between the two varieties. The question now was where did the O122 fit into the order? If the O122 existed without the obverse die break at stars 5 and 6 that would set the order. After a lot of looking, a lot of questions, and more than a few phone calls a Bust Half Nut Club member sent me an O122 with no die break at stars 5 and 6. It showed only a little flatness of the dentils in the area of the eventual break.

We now have our emission order. The O123 prime with no obverse die break or Rail Road Tracks (figure 1), the O122 with no obverse die break but flatness of the dentils (figure 2), the O123a with the obverse die break but no Rail Road Tracks (figure 3), and the O123b with the heavier die break and the reverse tracks (figure 4).

We now have our third remarriage confirmed for the Capped Bust Half Dollar series. All three of these remarriages involve the year 1828, the one just described, the 1828 O118, 1829 O110, 1828 O118, and the 1827 O108, 1828 O101, 1827 O108. This brings us to a couple of questions. Out of 450 marriages are there only three remarriages or are there more? Why do all of the known remarriages involve the year 1828? Is this a coincidence, or did something happen at the mint to account for this?

I would like to thank all of the BHNC and JRCS members who helped with this research. Also, a special thank you to Edgar Souders who made the photos possible.



Fig 1
1828 O-123 "Prime"



Fig 2
1828 O-122



Fig 3
1828 O-123 A



Fig 4
1828 O-123 B



1828 0123 Prime



1828 0122



1828 0123a



1828 0123b

